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*The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth.*

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## THE SMALL DOSE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

By WILLIAM SHARP, F.R.S., LONDON.

(Continued from page 163.)

"III. What are the actual proofs in support of the assertion that such minute quantities of ponderable matter act remedially on the *diseased* body?

"The reply to the first question proposed renders it *probable* that infinitesimal quantities of ponderable matter *may* act upon the living animal body.

"The answer to the second question embraces very numerous and undeniable facts, which prove, in the most positive and unexceptionable manner, that such small quantities do produce direct and sometimes frightfully-powerful effects upon the living body in *health*.

"That similarly minute quantities will act upon the *unhealthy* body is thus shown to be in the highest degree probable, if not certain; for it may be argued, *a fortiori*, if they can act upon the body in health, much more will they be able to act when the nervous system is in a state of exalted sensibility, produced by the morbid excitement of disease. Any portion of the surface of the body may be rubbed violently, when in a healthy condition, without painful sensation; but the same part, when inflamed, will shrink from the slightest touch.

"It now therefore only remains that, by the evidence of facts, I prove, generally, that they do act, and particularly that their action is beneficial and remedial in disease.

"If any one were to ask a physician who has been for a few years in the daily habit of prescribing these small doses, *Do they act beneficially?* he would see an expression of countenance very like that which another person would exhibit if, while standing before a good fire, he were gravely asked if he felt any warmth. On the other hand, if a physician who has not been willing to try the doses, nor see them tried by others, be asked, *Can they act upon disease?* he assumes a tone like that of the king of Siam, when told by some European travellers that water sometimes becomes solid.

"I do not address those who have tried

the doses—they need no further evidence; nor those who will try them, and who, with wonderful presumption, declare that such doses *cannot* act—they may be quietly passed by; but those whose minds are open to conviction, and who think the care of their health and the prolongation of their lives an affair of sufficient moment to require them to give attention to any information on the subject openly and candidly set before them.

"The evidence which proves the beneficial action of the small dose is the same in kind as that which proves any other natural fact,—it is the evidence of observation and experiment, that which our senses afford us. It is of the same nature as the evidence we have of the relation of cause and effect in any events which happen around us. It does not differ from that which we have of the operation of the *large* doses of medicine.

"A patient has a violent headache; twelve leeches are applied to his temples: relief follows the application of the leeches. Had this happened but once, we ought to conclude that the fact of the removal of the pain following the application of the leeches was merely a coincidence, not an instance of cause and effect; but it has happened a hundred times, and we therefore conclude that the relief was the *effect* of the loss of blood by the leeches. Another patient has a similarly violent headache; the millionth or the billionth of a drop of the juice of the Deadly Nightshade is given: relief quickly follows. Had this happened but once, we ought to set it down as a coincidence—an accidental meeting of two events having no connection with each other—but it has happened a hundred times; shall it not then be concluded that the removal of the pain was the *effect* of the administration of the dose? Let any one who doubts such a conclusion, and who would attribute such frequent recurrences of the same succession of events to chance, take up a kaleidoscope and turn it round till he gets the same figure a second time. We need not wish him a severer punishment.

"I now offer the following statement of facts, for the truth of which I hold myself responsible,

"I am aware of 'the difficulty of tracing effects to their true causes;' and also that there are 'various sources of error in conducting medical inquiries.' It is due to truth to observe that I have used every endeavor to overcome the one and to avoid the other. I cannot hope to have succeeded in doing this in every case, but that the ultimate conclusion is a safe and a true one I can entertain no doubt.

#### "ACUTE DISEASE.

"It will not be expected that, in a pamphlet like the present, I should give minute details of disease. Were it the fitting opportunity, I could relate the particulars of the following cases.

"**INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE.**—Mr. Brodribb, in his 'Homœopathy Unveiled,' observes that, 'from the peculiar structure of the eye, we may often actually witness what is going on in diseases of that organ . . . . With the same fidelity we can observe the effects of efficient treatment in the arrest and removal of the disease, and that, too, with such unerring certainty, as to leave no doubt in our mind of the relation of the two as cause and effect.'

"I have formerly often treated diseases of the eye by what Mr. Brodribb would acknowledge to have been 'efficient treatment,' and have often carefully watched its results. I have now also, a considerable number of cases, treated them with the small doses of homœopathy, and the beneficial results have been such 'as to leave no doubt in my mind of the relation of the two, as cause and effect.' One case was cured in a few days by the third dilutions of *Arnica*, *Aconite*, and *Belladonna*, where an allopathic physician had considered leeches to be indispensable. Other inflammatory affections of the eye have recovered much more rapidly and satisfactorily than I ever saw them do under any other treatment.

"**INFLAMMATION OF THE THROAT.**—The remark made by Mr. Brodribb with respect to the visibility of diseases of the eye applies also to those of the throat. I have very repeatedly seen the influence of minute doses of *Belladonna*, *Mercury*, *Hepar sulphuris*, and other remedies, upon the various stages of inflammation of the throat manifested in the most unmistakable manner. The Rev. — has had attacks of ulcerated sore throat repeatedly; under the usual treatment of blisters, etc., he has been laid up for some weeks on each occasion. I attended him lately for a similar attack. There was a large ulcer on each tonsil; he could scarcely swallow or speak; he was very feverish, and for two nights he had been deprived of sleep. Without discontinuing his usual duties, which are very laborious, for a single hour, and without any local application of any kind, he was perfectly cured in six days. In other cases,

where I thought suppuration and puncture of the tonsils inevitable, all the mischief dispersed, and recovery was effected in a few days.

"**CROUP.**—I have stated, in Tract No. 3, that several cases of croup have been treated after the new method. I have only to add here that the medicines were given in infinitesimal doses, and to assure my readers that the relief afforded, without any other treatment, not even a warm bath or a mustard poultice, was, in every instance, most obvious, rapid, and complete.

"**INFLAMMATION OF THE CHEST.**—Several cases of bronchitis and some of pneumonia have come under my care during the last three years. They have had no means whatever used to relieve them but the small doses. They have recovered more quickly and satisfactorily, and the attacks have been followed with a much shorter period of convalescence than I ever before witnessed, and the cure has been, so far, permanent.

"**ERYSIPELAS.**—This is always a serious and often a fatal complaint; it affords a good example of the confusion and inconsistency of allopathic medicine. 'The practice,' says Mr. Nunneley, who has written an excellent treatise on Erysipelas, 'pursued by different persons, is of the most dissimilar and contradictory nature; while one party relies upon blood-letting, freely and repeatedly performed, as the surest and only method of cure, another and perhaps larger party, certainly as respectable, so far as authority goes, utterly repudiates the abstraction of blood, and depends upon tonics and cordials for the removal of the complaint. Indeed, so confidently are the most opposite remedies enforced, and so contradictory are the results said to follow the application of the same means, in the hands of different persons, equally worthy of credit, that the impugnor of medical skill may fairly point with confidence to this part of our field, and demand if such contradictions are worthy of the name of a science or of trust.'

"It is not so with the homœopathic treatment of erysipelas. With minute doses of *Belladonna*, *Rhus*, and *Lachesis*, the usual remedies for this peculiar inflammation, I have succeeded in all the cases I have met with—among them were four severe ones—beyond my expectations. In the last case, which occurred to me this month, on the second day of the attack the inflammation had spread over the face, ears, most of the scalp, and part of the neck, with large blisters on each cheek, very severe headache, and a pulse of 150; this was entirely well at the end of a week.

"**RHEUMATISM.**—Some cases of rheumatic fever have afforded me excellent opportunities of seeing how beautifully the small doses relieve and frequently quickly cure this otherwise intractable complaint—one

of the *opprobria medicorum*. One case, a widow lady of 72, who had it then for the first time, and while in a state of considerable debility, was nearly well in a fortnight. Another, a farmer with organic disease of the heart, left by a former attack, a most severe case, with violent spasms of the heart threatening to terminate life, recovered in three weeks.

**'CHOLERA AND DIARRHŒA.**—The numerous statements published in various countries of the great efficacy of homœopathic treatment in cholera and diarrhœa have been confirmed by my own experience, so far as that has gone. In these cases I have always used the small doses, except when I was anxious to test the *principle* of homœopathy by giving ponderable quantities of the medicine indicated.

**'YELLOW FEVER.**—The ravages which this dreadful complaint is now making in Jamaica and other islands of the West Indies are painfully calamitous; of course, I have not myself treated this terrible malady, but from a trial of homœopathy, which has just been made in Barbadoes by Dr. Goding, it appears that, even after the black vomit has taken place, hitherto considered so fatal a symptom, homœopathy can still, with the blessing of God, rescue a victim from the grave. This ought to attract the attention of Governments. My information is from the *West Indian*, of October 28th, a Barbadoes paper, which has been kindly sent me.

"These must suffice as a *specimen* of the results in the treatment of acute diseases with minute doses of medicine only. To my own mind the efficacy of the method is most palpable and satisfactory. I have not one-fourth of the apprehension of an unfavorable termination in any acute attack of disease which I had in former times. The duration of the illness is much shortened, the danger greatly lessened, the strength of the patient husbanded, and convalescence, often so tedious and distressing, is almost annihilated.

#### **"CHRONIC DISEASE.**

**"PAIN IN THE ELBOW.**—Mr. R., a shopkeeper, consulted me in August, 1850, on account of a very distressing pain in the elbow, from which he had been suffering for twelve months. He had been under surgical treatment, I believe, the whole of that time. The joint was stiff and swollen, but did not appear to me to be seriously diseased: the pain, however, was described as being at times excruciating. I gave him a single dose of *Staphysagria*, highly diluted. In a few days I called to inquire after him, when he told me that the night he took my dose he was very strangely affected; he could scarcely describe how, but it was so powerful that he would not take any more of my medicine. 'How is your elbow?' 'Look!' he cried, and moving his arm in

all directions in a rapid manner, declared that it was well; and so it remained.

**"DIABETES MELLITUS.**—On the 7th of March, 1850, I was consulted by Mrs. —, a widow of about 47, who had been suffering for several years from various ailments, and had been during much of that time under the care of a physician. I found that one of her complaints was diabetes mellitus, which had been increasing upon her for the last two years. The quantity of urine in the twenty-four hours was fifteen pints, and the weight of sugar contained in this exceeded a pound. It would be tedious to report the daily progress of this case; it must suffice to say that, under the influence of minute doses of *Aconite*, *Sulphur*, *Nux vomica*, *China*, *Belladonna*, and some other remedies, by the middle of July she was so much recovered that the quantity of water was reduced to below three pints, that is, to the quantity natural in health; and though the presence of sugar could still be detected, it was comparatively small in quantity. She then went to the sea-side for two or three weeks. During her stay there, her son wrote to me that his 'mother was so well that she did not appear to ail anything.' She has since suffered in various ways from mental causes, and has had some return of the diabetes, but it has again yielded to the same remedies. It may be said of this case that the tendency to the complaint is not removed. This is granted; but while the causes which first induced the complaint are, in all probability, still surrounding the patient, it is not surprising if they succeed in bringing on second or third attacks. I have seen several cases of sugared urine formerly, but I never saw the old remedies afford such permanent benefit. Neither is it reasonable to expect that the new method will always succeed in such an intractable and hitherto usually fatal disease.

"December 28th, 1852. I called to see this patient to-day, when she told me she had not felt so well for many years as she did at present. It is now nearly three years since I first saw her in the alarming condition I have described.

**"TABES MESENTERICA.**—In September, 1852, Mrs. H— consulted me about her baby, eight months old, suffering from mesenteric disease. The little infant was greatly emaciated, and its mother expected that it was going to die. Excessively minute doses of *Sulphur* and *Chalk* were followed by a wonderful improvement in a fortnight; the medicines were repeated, and at the end of six weeks the child seemed nearly well—its stomach almost reduced to its natural dimensions, and its limbs filling up. Mrs. H— had been at first quite incredulous, and came to me only through the persuasion of a friend; she was now so much gratified, that she thought it her duty to call upon her former medical advisers, to



show them the child, and to offer a copy of one of my pamphlets. An angry scene ensued, and the following conversation took place:—"I refuse to take the book; if Mr. Sharp said he was doing nothing we could respect him, but as it is we cannot." Mrs. H.: 'But, sir, my child is cured!' 'Yes, it has got well by letting medicine alone.' 'But I tried what letting medicine alone would do for some time, and the child grew worse and worse. It began to improve from the very day Mr. Sharp's medicine was commenced; and how was it that two other little babies of mine died of the same disease in your hands? If medicines do harm, and you knew that doing nothing would cure, why did not you recommend that plan?'

"DISEASE OF THE LUNGS.—Mr. W. S.—, aged 20, had a severe attack of inflammation in the chest during last winter, and was attended by two or three medical men. This was followed by chronic disease during the spring and summer. His friends despaired of his recovery. When I saw him in September he was emaciated; had cough and expectoration; his pulse 120; occasional flushings in the face; no appetite; the whole of the right lung returned a dull sound on percussion, and there was a peculiar sound of the voice through the stethoscope.

"I made no alteration in his diet or habits, and gave him nothing but infinitesimal doses of the medicines employed, such as *Aconite*, *Bryonia*, *Phosphorus*, etc.; these have been continued three months. He declares that he feels quite well; he looks well; he has gained flesh; he takes horse exercise, notwithstanding the wet; he has not the slightest cough nor expectoration; no fever; no perspiration; and the only symptom which remains to testify the reality of his former danger is revealed by the stethoscope; the unnatural sound of the voice, though much diminished, has not yet ceased.

"WARTS.—In two cases I have succeeded in clearing the hand of ugly warts. In both by internal treatment alone, and with infinitesimal doses of the medicines employed.

"PARTIAL PARALYSIS.—Mrs. M.— consulted me, three months ago, for paralysis of the thumb of the right hand, which had existed for some time. She had entirely lost the use of it; for instance, she could not take up a needle or hold it; she was otherwise ailing. The case reminded me of the condition of persons exposed to the poisonous influence of lead, as painters are. I prescribed the billionth of a grain of lead, in occasional doses for a month, and nothing else. At the expiration of the month, her husband, a respectable farmer, called to say that she was rather better, and wished for more medicine; it was repeated for a second month, and afterwards for a

third, on hearing still better accounts of her. A few days ago I was in the neighborhood, and called unexpectedly to see her. I found her sitting at her fireside busily engaged in sewing, and looking so much better that I scarcely recognized her. She spoke very gratefully of her improved condition.

"I am not now replying to opponents, but I cannot avoid making a quotation here from Mr. Brodribb: 'Lead will give rise to all the symptoms of colic, and produce a certain form of paralysis, but it will not cure either of those affections.' How does Mr. Brodribb know this? Has he ever tried it in these diseases in any dose? And if not, how can he make such an assertion?

"HABITUAL CONSTIPATION.—It is a great bugbear with many, especially with many amiable amateur practitioners of the healing art, that homœopathy dispenses with the old-fashioned doses of Gregory and black draught; that it professes to be able to go on its way prosperously without the aid of calomel and colocynth, senna, salts, and jalap.

"I acknowledge that at first I found this difficult to accomplish, but it is a difficulty surmounted. I now never think of having recourse to these remedies in the treatment of those cases in which they have usually been considered indispensable. If they are not necessary, they must be injurious. If they can be safely laid aside, the patient must be the gainer.

"But more than this. In a large number of cases of habitual constipation, I have succeeded quite beyond my own expectations in entirely removing this disagreeable condition. Some had taken aperients so long, and in such increasing quantities, that matters had come to an extremity. One lady had taken them ten or twelve years; another told me she had never gone to bed without her pills for between forty and fifty years; and another, that a pint of senna, etc., had become ineffectual; and yet an entire emancipation from this thralldom has been effected by the infinitesimal doses of the appropriate medicine. The nauseous physic was laid aside at once and, I believe, for ever. I have the pleasure of knowing one lady who did this at 70, and she is now enjoying comfortable health at 82.

"Such is a brief sketch of the results of the treatment of chronic disease.

"This is the case of the small dose, and the kind of evidence upon which it rests. I think it well to mention that the dilution of the medicines I have most frequently used is the 3d—in which the grain or the drop is divided into a million of parts. I have often used the 2d (the 10,000th part), and sometimes the 1st (the 100th part of a grain). I have also often used the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 12th; and I have seen beneficial effects follow the administration of the 18th and the 30th. Further than this I have not

gone, and I do not hold myself committed to anything beyond my own observation and experience.

"We are indebted to Hahnemann for the invention of this method of preparing and administering the remedy, as we are for the discovery of the rule by which we are to be guided in its choice.

"The difficulty of the case, I have said, lies in its incredibility. I trust this is now greatly lessened, if not removed. It is no other than that which attaches to every new statement—its novelty. It is the same difficulty as that which fastened itself upon the mind of the king of Siam. It vanishes before evidence. *It is credible* that the small dose can effect 'a safe, speedy, and permanent cure' whenever a cure is possible, *when it is found practically to do so.*

"To those who contend that, after so many triturations and dilutions, there can be nothing left in the dose, I beg to put two questions: first, seeing that a grain of the medicinal substance is added to ninety-nine grains of sugar in the first trituration, in which particular dilution has it ceased to exist? And, secondly, if the doses contain nothing, or are 'nihilities,' as Mr. Brodribb calls them, how do effects such as those referred to in this pamphlet follow the administration?

"To those who attempt to quash such statements as I have made by accusations of fraud or of falsehood, I have nothing to say. There is no common ground upon which we can meet to argue.

"To conclude, one obvious fact cannot be overlooked; all who bear testimony to the efficacy of these doses have tried them, either upon themselves or upon others; while those who deny their action not only have not tested it, but, for the most part, boast that they have not; reject the proposal to try the remedies with disdain, and continue to stigmatise those who do as 'knaves or fools,' or 'morally-attenuated dwarfs.'

*"Right reason being our guide, with which of these two parties is truth most likely to be found?"*

"Rugby, Dec. 31, 1852."

#### THE PEOPLE MUST AID IN THE MEDICAL REFORM.

In the first number of this Journal, issued nearly seven years ago, we took the ground that a reform in medicine, such as Homœopathy is designed to accomplish, could not be successfully carried on unless the people were instructed on the subjects of diseases and their treatment. We are still of the same opinion, in truth, we perceive more clearly the necessity of such a course, not for the

purpose of making every one his own doctor, but our object is to enable the people to judge by authentic statistical reports the superiority of Homœopathy over allopathy, and also to enable them, by suitable intelligence, to select a properly-qualified practitioner; and when the choice, after due deliberation, is made, to leave the sick entirely under his management.

In this way, and in these respects, a reform in medicine has been gradually progressing; yet there is much remains to be done, and it is desirable that every member of the profession should feel that his own interest, and the general good are concerned in this matter.

The ignorance of the people in medicine renders the practitioner's life a drudgery, instead of its being what it ought to be, one of the most pleasant and desirable of all professions. The interference of ignorant persons with the physician's duties unfits him, in a measure, for a proper performance of his professional functions. "Doctor, Tom is no better," said a well-meaning mother; "I really think he is worse; and I don't believe anything you have done for him has done him any good. Doctor, you must, I insist upon it, do something more efficient. My husband and myself have been talking the matter over, and we have agreed that unless you consent to give him medicine that will act on him more powerfully, we must get a physician that will do so; for we cannot stand by and see him suffer any longer. Tom has now been sick three days, and at this moment he is worse than he was the first day, and only think of it, Doctor, he has not had a motion of his bowels for two days, and if you had not come in as you did, I would have given him a dose of magnesia or castor oil, or something of that sort, for it stands to reason, Doctor, that he should have an evacuation from his bowels; and further, Doctor, unless you exert yourself and make Tom better by to-morrow, I know my husband will dismiss you, and send for Doctor Quickeure, who has been highly recommended to us by Mrs. John Mischiefmaker, who called last evening, and she agreed with me that something must be done, or poor Tom can't stay with us much longer."

This is an example of what physicians

daily meet in their visits to the sick among all classes, high and low, rich and poor, all of which is based upon gross ignorance. Such scenes would never occur if the people were properly instructed in diseases and their treatment.

Thousands of lives are sacrificed annually by the dishonest, dishonorable, and hypocritical doings of those in and about the sick, whose limited knowledge makes them proud, self-willed, conceited, dissatisfied, and ready to embrace any new suggestion from whatever source it may come.

So general and deep-rooted among the people, is ignorance and superstition in medicine, that medical men feel compelled, for the safety of the sick, to resort to duplicity, to have their advice followed; and it would seem in such cases, that duplicity becomes a virtue. We do not advocate this doctrine, however, but merely state facts, for the edification of our lay readers.

An active man of business entered a physician's office early one morning, and said, "Doctor, I am quite out of sorts this morning, I wish you could give me something to relieve me." The Doctor thoroughly investigated the case, and said, "My dear sir, I fear you will have typhus fever; you should go home, and to bed, for you will probably be sick several days and perhaps weeks." "Nonsense, Doctor, give me something to break it up at once, to check it in the bud. Something strong, Doctor; none of your small doses." "I cannot do that," said the Doctor, "If I should do as you request, I might cause your death." "Pshaw! Doctor, there is my neighbor, Mr. Goahead, he was attacked with fever the other night, and his physician gave him a powerful dose, broke his fever at a stroke, and he was out next morning. Now, I want you to do that for me, or I must go to his physician." "But, sir," said the Doctor, "you do not understand this subject, you do not perceive that your friend had a fever of one kind and you have another, and the means used in the one with success, might kill the other." "Nonsense again, Doctor, fever is fever, and what cured one man should cure another. At all events I prefer those measures which are efficient. I want, when I take medicine, to feel it; so good morning,

Doctor, I must decline your services, you are not efficient enough for me."

Here we have an honest and skilful physician who undertakes to manage an ignorant and conceited patient, by frankly stating the truth, but he failed. The man employed one of the *heroic* practitioners who told him he could break up his fever in a "little less than no time," but in less than a week his patient was laid in a vault in the Greenwood Cemetery, and his family declared "that everything had been done for him but without avail. The doctor was with him day and night, administered the most powerful medicines, which *operated* freely. He was blistered, he was bled several times for his head, he was purged also; and brandy, clear brandy, in quantities enough to have made twenty men drunk, was given him; but nothing would do; it was evidently the will of God he should die, and we are in duty bound to submit to the wise dispensations of his providence." This is no fancy sketch, every physician who understands his profession knows it is not. It is an every-day occurrence; but it is owing entirely to the want of suitable knowledge of diseases and their treatment by the people, which Homœopaths are in duty bound to give them. Allopathists will never do it. It has been their purpose, and it is so yet, to conceal these things from the people, for quackery lives only in ignorance. Let Homœopaths undertake this work boldly and zealously. Circulate among the people proper periodicals, of which we have several, and in all ways which good sense dictates, help forward the great reform in the healing art which was begun so successfully by the illustrious Hahnemann.

### THREE PRECAUTIONARY RULES OF HAHNEMANN.

By Dr. V. BENNINGHAUSEN.

THE author of homœopathy, in his work "The Chronic Diseases," has established three precautionary rules, which he has impressed in the most urgent manner upon the minds of his disciples, and which no homœopathic physician can violate without committing the greatest faults in practice.



They are the following:—

1. "To suppose that the doses which I have recommended for every antipsoric remedy, and which experience has taught me to be the proper doses, are too small."

2. "The improper selection of a drug."

3. "The too great haste in administering a new dose."

Whether it is superfluous and out of season to remind homœopathists of these doctrines and warnings of the great master and observer, I shall leave all true homœopathists to decide; suffice it to say, that it is precisely in regard to the first and third rule that modern practitioners have placed themselves in contradiction with Hahnemann.

Some years ago, when a schism broke out in the Homœopathic School, and it seemed as if the doctrine of the specifics promulgated by Griesselich and Co., had achieved a complete victory over the so-called Hahnemannism, that portion of the school who had remained faithful to the truth, and who were loath to indulge in literary cudgellings, withdrew from the scene of action, hoping for better days; they left the field to the loquacious scribes of the new sect, who seemed to take an especial pride and pleasure in denying the rules of practice which the author of homœopathy had established from long experience and observation. In the place of the Organon, which the conscientious and eminently-qualified Hahnemann had been uninterruptedly purifying and remodelling for a space of thirty years, they read the Organon of Rau, which had started up like a fungus and disappeared as fast; and in place of the doctrines contained in the work on Chronic Disease, results of twenty years' experience, they studied the hypotheses and contradictions promulgated in the ephemeral pages of the *Hygea*. Who can deny or be astonished that, in consequence of the pernicious doctrines of that journal, the Homœopathic School in Germany lost a considerable portion of the ground which the original disciples of Hahnemann had conquered with so much honor and perseverance! For almost every homœopathic practitioner was more or less carried away by the whirlpool, and I myself am indebted for my speedy return to the doctrines of true experience and science to the warning of my never-to-be-forgotten teacher and faithful friend, who taught me in an uninterrupted series of letters to distinguish truth from falsehood by careful experiments, comparisons, and unprejudiced observations.

Many must have shared my doubts, but have probably been freed from them more slowly than I have; for the number of those who repel the errors that have been introduced in our school, and who defend against the original and only true doctrines

of the master, is increasing from day to day; a year ago scarcely any one dared speak in their favor. The impertinent, bold, and frequently vulgar tone of the specifics had intimidated even the most capable and most experienced disciples of Hahnemann to such an extent that they not only kept their better convictions to themselves (oh, the miserable cowards! H.), but, out of fear of the strong-doses men, did not hesitate to advise that great cures by means of the smallest and rarest doses should be kept concealed.

During this period of weakness and ignominy, when I should have been so glad to fight openly for the truth, together with the honorable men who shared my faith and my convictions, circumstances had set in which had prevented me from fighting an open battle for truth and justice. My contributions to some numbers of this journal had therefore to be published anonymously. This induced a few mean opponents, although the editors of the *Archiv* named me afterwards as the author of those publications, to doubt the truth of my simple narrations, although I can at any time prove the facts by my journals. If I felt grieved by the proceedings of my opponents, it is not because they attacked my honor and good name—such attacks cannot injure me—but they were evidence of the great doctrine of true homœopathy in Germany, where cures were doubted which had formerly been credited, even at a time when the homœopathic doctrine was much less advanced than it is now.

Unless the signs deceive me, we are now at the commencement of a new epoch, marked by the death of our master, whose genius hovers around us—an epoch when the unity of the school shall be restored, when the excrescences shall have been chopped off, and the genuine metal separated from the dross. Let us henceforth be more firmly united, all of us who desire the good; but let us exclude from our ranks with unrelenting severity any one who sneers at the good cause, schismatics and all those who attempt substituting opinions and hypotheses for careful observations. But let us at the same time honor the memory of the great reformer in medicine, by subjecting his doctrines, results of fifty years' observation, to repeated and comprehensive examinations and trials, and by candidly communicating our experience to one another. This would be the best mode of preparing the monument which the great man has merited by the services he has rendered to suffering humanity.

#### PRECAUTIONARY RULE, No. 1.

##### *Smallness of the Dose.*

The debates relative to the smallness of the doses are far from being closed. The

more that has been written on that subject for some years past, the more contradiction has been heaped upon contradiction. What is a truly remarkable circumstance in this discussion—a circumstance which is by no means creditable to the opponents of the small doses—is the fact that the manner in which Hahnemann gradually arrived at the introduction of the small doses in practice, in consequence of repeated trials, observations, experience, seems either to have been forgotten or entirely ignored. It is therefore high time to recall the opinions and precepts of the old master once more to mind.

My readers will certainly dispense me with the trouble to show by the Organon, from the first to the fifth edition, that it is experience, and nothing else, which led the carefully-observing author of that immortal text-book to that minuteness of doses which has now become an object of derision to the specifics.

In the second edition of "Chronic Diseases," after having spoken of homœopathic exacerbations, Hahnemann continues thus: "If the original symptoms of the disease continue with the same intensity in the succeeding days as in the beginning, or if this intensity increases, this is a sure sign that, although the remedy may be homœopathic, yet the magnitude of the dose will make the cure impossible. The remedial agent, by its powerful and disproportionate action, not only neutralizes its genuine homœopathic effects, but establishes, moreover, in the system a medicinal disease by the side of the natural disturbance, which is even strengthened by the medicine."

That portion of the preceding quotation which is printed in italics embodies a great truth which has never been denied, which has been abundantly confirmed by the numerous results of the allopathic treatment of chronic diseases, and is therefore well worthy of attentive and serious consideration. Such results are even witnessed in the comparatively easy treatment of syphilis, from abuse of *Mercury*, which is then termed secondary syphilis; but especially do we witness them in the treatment of primary itch, with excessive quantities of *Sulphur* internally, and *Mercury* externally, which begets a monstrous chronic disease, which, in most cases, would even be inaccessible to homœopathy without *Causticum* or *Sepia*.

Hahnemann continues afterwards. "This pernicious effect of too large a dose may be observed already in the first sixteen, eighteen, or twenty days of its action. In such a case it becomes necessary either to give an antidote, or if the antidote should not be known, to administer a very small dose of such an antipsoric as corresponds most homœopathically to the symptoms of both the natural and the artificial disease. If one antipsoric should not be sufficient,

another one, of course, ought to be given, after having been selected with the same care."

To confirm this rule, and as a proof that it had been drawn from experience, the acute observer adds, in a note: "The accident above alluded to, and which is very much in the way of a cure and cannot be sufficiently guarded against, I have witnessed in my own practice, at the time when I was not yet fully acquainted with the remedial virtues of *Sepia*, and especially *Lycopodium* and *Silicea*. I was then in the habit of giving four, five, or six globules of the billionth potency at a dose. *Discite moniti*." What specific, endowed with the acute powers of observation which characterized the genius of Hahnemann, has ever been able to give the lie to his master's teachings in regard to the magnitude of doses, by defeating Hahnemann's experience by his own? As long as Hahnemann has not been convicted of error, I should say that it is a gratuitous and foolish indiscretion to substitute a different practice for his own, and even to demand that the experience of a few rash innovators should be credited more than that of Hahnemann, backed by the experience of a host of able and devoted practitioners of the homœopathic healing art.

How little an excessive dose is capable of displaying its full curative powers may be seen from the following remarks of the author of homœopathy:—"The excessive action of the otherwise homœopathic remedial agent having been subdued by the proper antidote or by antipsoric remedies, the same agent may then be exhibited again, but of a much higher potency, and in a more minute dose." But this agent would have no effect, if a first powerful dose of it had accomplished in the beginning all the good that the agent is capable of.

Finally, Hahnemann observes: "Nothing is lost by giving even smaller doses than those which I have indicated. The doses can be scarcely too much reduced provided the effects of the remedy are not disturbed by improper food. The remedial agent will act even in its smallest quantity, provided it corresponds perfectly to all the symptoms of the disease, and its action is not interfered with by dietetic transgressions. The advantage of giving the smallest doses is this, that it is an easy matter to neutralize their effects in case the medicine should not have been chosen with the necessary exactitude. This being done, a more suitable antipsoric may be exhibited." This advice ought to be carefully considered, especially by beginners, together with the warning which Hahnemann has expressed in the preface to his work on the Chronic Diseases. "What would they have risked, if they had first followed my indications and had employed



small doses? The worst which could have befallen them was, that those doses would be of no avail. It was impossible that they should do any harm. But instead of exhibiting small doses, they employed, from a want of sense, and of their own accord, large doses for homœopathic use, thus exposing the lives of their patients, and arriving at truth by that circuitous route which I had travelled upon before them with trembling hesitation, but the end of which I had just reached with success. Nevertheless, after having done much mischief, and having squandered the best period of their lives, they were obliged, when they were really desirous of curing a disease, to resort to the only true method which I had demonstrated to them a long while ago."

I should weary the patience of my readers if I were to continue this subject still further. He who is desirous of having an accurate knowledge of my views about the matter of the doses, may read my work, entitled "Homœopathia, for Intelligent Laymen." At page 203 of this work, a special chapter has been devoted to the "*smallness of the doses*," which I feel bound to approve of even now, after many years' experience, and after having suffered myself to be carried away for a time by the hue and cry against the small doses, and having prescribed larger ones with much less success, especially in the treatment of chronic diseases. The reasons for my adhering to the small doses may be found in my Journal, which has now grown up to fifty-five large quarto volumes, and in my communications to the *Archiv*, signed "Dr. B. of D."

I ought to observe here that Hahnemann has never deviated from this practice of giving small doses, even in the last years of his practice, and that the insinuations of the specifics to that effect are totally without foundation.

These insinuations are not only contradicted in the preface to the "Chronic Diseases," which was written at the end of 1838, but I can likewise show their falsehood by the letters which have been exchanged between Hahnemann and myself, without any interruption, from the middle of the year 1830 until two months before his death, and which show that, so far from increasing the doses, Hahnemann has, on the contrary, steadily diminished them progressively until the last moment.

Inasmuch as we know almost nothing of the cures performed by our defunct master, except the two cases reported in the preface to the second volume of the "*Materia Medica Pura*," and a few more facts which had been but slightly touched upon, I may perhaps afford a pleasure to most homœopaths, by communicating an extract from Hahnemann's Journal, which he sent to me

on the 24th of April, 1844, as a proof of the efficacy of small doses. Wherever this potency is not distinctly indicated in the report, the reader will please to understand the 60th.

*Case.*—O., actor, thirty-three years old, married.

January 14th, 1843. Has been frequently troubled with an affection of the throat for several years past; has a new attack, which lasted already for a month. When swallowing saliva, he feels a stinging sensation, tight and sore feeling.

When the throat is not affected he suffers with a fissure in the anus, painfully smarting; the anus is then swollen, inflamed, and narrower than usual; the expulsion of the feces is very difficult under these circumstances, and is accompanied by the protrusion of hemorrhoids.

*Bell. x*, dissolved in seven tablespoonfuls of water, one tablespoonful to be mixed in a tumblerful of water; one teaspoonful of this last mixture at a dose.

15th. The sore throat was worse in the evening.

16th. The sore throat had disappeared, but the affection of the anus had returned. Painful stool in the evening.

He confessed that he had had a chancre eight years ago, the removal of which by cauterization had even followed by the above-named symptoms.

On the 10th of January, he took *Merc. viv.*, one pellet, prepared and taken as above.

January 20th. Sore throat had almost gone. Anus improved; feels yet some soreness after the stools; pulsations, swelling, and inflammation had disappeared. The narrowing was less.

*Merc. viv.*, one pellet, of the second higher dynamization, prepared in the same way as before, and taken in the morning. (It is not stated whether the *Mercury* was taken once or twice; generally only once in the morning.)

25th. Throat almost well, but smarting pain and violent stitches in the anus; violent pain in the anus after stool; some narrowing and heat.

30th. Last dose (one teaspoonful) in the afternoon. On the 28th the anus was better; the sore throat had returned; the smarting in the throat was pretty violent.

One pellet in sugar of milk, dissolved as above, and taken for seven days, one teaspoonful a day.

February 7th. Considerable ulcerative pain in the throat. Colic; good stools, but several in succession, with great thirst. The anus is perfectly well.

*Sulphur*, one pellet of the second potency, in seven tablespoonfuls, as above.

13th. Had an ulcerative pain in the throat, especially when swallowing the saliva, which he now secretes in abundance,

especially on the 11th and 12th. The anus has become a little narrower, especially since yesterday.

Smelled of *Mercury*, and took *Merc. viv.*, second highest potency, one pellet to be dissolved in seven tablespoonfuls of water, to which was added half a tablespoonful of brandy; mix one tablespoonful in a tumbler. ful of water, and take one teaspoonful as above.

20th. The throat has been better since the 18th; great pains in the anus; stool is painful when passing it; thirst decreased. Sugar of milk in seven tablespoonfuls, etc.

March 3d. No sore throat. When passing the stools, an empty hemorrhoidal tumor makes its appearance, with itching of the part, (formerly with burning and smarting).

Smelling of *Ac. nitr.* and sugar of milk in seven tablespoonfuls, etc.

20th. The pain after the stool has almost gone; yesterday he passed some blood with the stool (old symptom). The throat is sound; there is a slight sensation when drinking cold.

Smelling of *Ac. nitr.* (Smelling is performed by opening a little phial containing half an ounce of diluted alcohol or brandy, and smelling for one or two moments of a pellet which has been dissolved in it.)

Remained well since.

(To be continued.)

#### THE PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

The article by Dr. Von Benninghausen should be thoroughly studied by every student of homœopathy. Hahnemann's *Organon*, we are sorry to say it, is neglected by the medical student. Many, we have reason to believe, have never seen that work, and thereby remain ignorant of homœopathy.

The flood of "domestic" works and others for homœopathic practice, written and published chiefly, as it seems to us, for pecuniary profit, are too often regarded the standards of Hahnemann's system. We never could see the pretended necessity for these works. But we do see their pernicious effects, the promulgation of spurious for the genuine doctrine and practice of homœopathy. Not only are these works used in families, but even some practitioners rely alone on them. We doubt if there be an agent more efficient in retarding the progress of pure homœopathy than these "domestic" works. Nearly all of them are

based on allopathic doctrine, which never harmonizes in any measure with homœopathy.

The only reliable works are Hahnemann's *Organon*, and his *Chronic Diseases*, including his *Materia Medica Pura*. Without a thorough knowledge of these, no one is competent to treat diseases homœopathically. Dr. Benninghausen, in our opinion, is the ablest practitioner of the school. He speaks "the words of truth and soberness." There is nothing wild in him; he is no visionary; he has the regular exercise of dispassionate reason; and what he says, is in the highest degree practical. He has great mental force, which shows itself in the clearness of his thoughts; and because of their distinctness to his own mind, he is able to express them in the most appropriate words, which give them convincing influence on the mind of the student. Benninghausen knew the mind of Hahnemann, up to within a short period of his death; and although the world has been unjustly deprived of the records of the experience and opinions of that great man, in the last years of his life, yet his correspondence with Benninghausen shows an important fact, that instead of enlarging the dose of medicine, as recommended in his *Organon*, he diminished it in chronic diseases, in which affections, we admit, is to be found most of his experience. For that reason, his experience becomes the more valuable, for by far the greater number of the human family suffer of chronic affections. It is encouraging to perceive, as we think we do, "that better times are coming;" for both in Europe and in this country, physicians have begun to examine more critically what Hahnemann did teach, and to put his rules of practice to the test by experiment. This should have been the work of every professed disciple of his for the last forty years; but many are led astray by Rau and others, and persevering efforts were made by industrious and powerful minds to form a bond of union between homœopathy and allopathy; and so confident were they of success, and so great an influence did they exert, that had it not have been for Gross, Stapf, Benninghausen, and a few others, the prognostications of allopaths would have been realized, in the overthrow

of homœopathy in Europe, and it would have been merged into modified allopathy. Had not the allopathic school been overrun with pride, vanity, ignorance and duplicity, it would have seized upon Rau's doctrines, made them popular by their adoption, and in that way, they could have carried a large proportion of the pretended homœopathists into their schools, and made them communicants at the allopathic altar. But the Protector of truth directed otherwise, and the day is at hand, when the labors of Hahnemann will be duly appreciated, and pure homœopathy triumph. In this country the genuine disciples of that great man are on the increase. We know of those who were once mongrels, but have come out of darkness into the light; and from numerous letters received by us during the last year, we learn the cheering fact, that this Journal has contributed in aid of so desirable a work.

#### MEDICAL REFORM.

A reform in the healing art is now in progress, which is deeper and more thorough than the world has ever yet beheld. There is an uprooting of old theories, and the dangerous practice founded upon them. So complete is this, that many of the ablest members of the profession in this and other countries absolutely refuse to prescribe any thing that has the slightest tincture of allopathy; not from partizan feeling, not from obstinacy, but from an honest conviction, based upon positively-known facts of its evil tendency. Although allopathists yet smile in derision at the idea of the spread of homœopathy, nevertheless these "blind leaders of the blind" cannot resist the tide that sets in in favor of that system. It is to our mind an encouraging fact, that homœopathists generally are investigating thoroughly the principles and rules of practice promulgated by Hahnemann; and the influence which Rau, Griesselich, and others, had in turning aside many from pure homœopathy is rapidly passing away, and the doctrines and practice of the master are rising in the estimation of the industrious practical student.

Notwithstanding these encouraging views of the progress of a reform in medicine,

yet much remains to be accomplished. The laity are full of erroneous notions in regard to the treatment of diseases; their minds are influenced by allopathic nonsense, which should be removed, and can be done only by firmness on the part of practitioners, who, in no case, should depart from a strict adherence to the established rules of practice. Unless such a course be pursued at all hazards, having a greater love for truth and humanity than for money or transient fame, the practitioner will meet with difficulties from the laity in a faithful performance of his duties, that will greatly endanger the lives of the sick. The attempt is often made to take the treatment of cases out of the hands of the physician, leaving him nothing but the responsibility. "Doctor, John has not had a motion of his bowels since day before yesterday, and you have not given him anything to act on his bowels." The doctor says, "my dear sir, you forget that John had a free DIARRHŒA for three days and nights, which was arrested day before yesterday, and no symptoms present show he suffers for want of an evacuation from the bowels." "Yes! yes! I understand you, doctor, but I have an opinion of my own, sir, on that subject, and unless John has a movement of the bowels in a few hours, I shall insist on giving him a cathartic." "But," says the doctor, "an irritation of the bowels by a cathartic might be injurious to him." "I don't believe it, doctor." This is but a slight example of the mode by which laymen, who have no true ideas of medicine, undertake to direct the physician in his duties, yet hold him responsible for the result. If laymen are determined to direct the medical treatment of the sick, they should inform themselves on the subject, that they may be qualified for the fearful work.

We can never have such a reform in medicine as is demanded for the safety of the sick, unless suitable measures are employed to enlighten the people. They should know, that prescribing for diseases should be governed by established rules, and that it is reasonable to expect injury by a deviation from them. They should know, in the next place, that by a comparison of one case of disease with another, however striking the resemblance, it does not



follow that the same measures are appropriate to both. This is the basis of quackery, and such an error is the hope of the quack. However, it is a cheering consideration, that the people are rapidly acquiring knowledge, which after a while will lead them to a true estimate of a physician's services, and confidence existing, will lead to an avoidance of all interference, and the practitioner will be able to perform his duties with a satisfaction not common in these days.

#### ERROR CORRECTED.

The *Boston Homœopathic Journal* is at fault in representing that the two gentlemen named in an article in the last number, were the only practitioners of homœopathy in this city in 1833. One did not graduate until 1835, and the other, we believe, left practice from somewhere in the neighborhood of 1833, and did not resume it until 1839. Announcements like that in the *Boston Journal* we have seen several times, to our surprise, during the last few years, not only in medical journals, but also in newspapers. The *New Quarterly* perpetrated a similar blunder, which we passed unnoticed at the time, for it was so near home that we feared our remarks might have been misconstrued.

In 1833, Hans B. Gram, M.D., the first Homœopathist in America, and we believe he was also a native of Boston; A. D. Wilson, M.D., and William Channing, M.D., were the only ones known to the public, then in the active duties of homœopathic practitioners. The Editor of this Journal had been investigating homœopathy under Dr. Gram from 1830, and although he openly treated the *Cholera* in 1832 homœopathically, yet he did not allow himself to be recognised as a homœopathist, for several years after that epidemic.

These remarks are made in good feeling, being prompted alone by a sense of justice to the dead as well as to the living.

#### TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHERS.

The present number of this Journal completes the Seventh Volume. The first number of the Eighth Volume will be published on the 1st of May next. Subscribers would oblige us much, if they would, on the

receipt of this number, remit to us one dollar, for the next volume, that we may have some indication of the number of copies necessary to issue to meet the demand.

Eight copies can be had for five dollars. Twenty copies for ten dollars. Fifty copies for twenty dollars.

So far as we are personally concerned we have no complaint, because our services in conducting this Journal have met with an encouragement from the friends of Homœopathy far beyond our expectations. It has been sustained; and, although, after paying the expense of publication, only a few hundreds are left us for pocket-money, yet the amount is satisfactory; but we would not object to an increase of it, on the ground that five, ten, or twenty dollars expended by each physician for the purpose of an extended circulation of the *American Journal of Homœopathy* among the people, would pay them a very large dividend. We know this would be so, for it has been proved by experience.

#### PAMPHLETS, PERIODICALS, ETC.

*Introductory Lecture by Prof. W. S. HELMUTH*, to the class in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania. Published by the class.

Those who take morbid alterations of structure as found in dead bodies for a guide in the treatment of diseases, might be convinced of their error by a thorough reading of this lecture.

*Essays on Asylums for persons of unsound mind* by JOHN M. GALT, M.D., Superintendent and Physician of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum of Virginia, at Williamsburgh.

This pamphlet contains two articles. The 1st, "On the organization of Asylums for the Insane." The 2d, "On the Medico-legal question of the confinement of the insane." These contain several valuable practical suggestions. We hope to see the day when able and pure homœopathists will be placed in charge of these institutions in our country. When the doctrine advocated and proved by Hahnemann on chronic diseases is understood generally, lunacy will be better understood than at present. In truth, it is not improper to say, that allopathists do not know the constitutional conditions of lunatics; their knowledge embraces only some of the exciting causes of insanity.